

Top Secret



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**Special Analysis** 

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## IRAQ-IRAN: Baghdad Threatens Airstrikes

☐raq has repeated its threat to intensify air attacks against Iran, as Iranian forces in Iraq push toward Panjwin
the Iraqis told the Ambassador on Sunday that Iraqi aircraft soon would attack Iranian targets along the Persian Gulf, possibly including the Japanese-bullt petrochemical plant at Bandar-e Khomeyni. The Japanese were advised to withdraw their technicians from the site. Iraqi President Saddam Huseyn, following a visit to the front on Monday, warned that Iraq again would retaliate against targets in Iran unless Tehran stopped its offensive.
//The warnings coincide with heavy fighting in northern Iraq.    Iranian forces     Occupying key high ground have nearly encircled Panjwin.
on Saturday Iraq had already suffered more than 5,000 casualties. Tehran claims the
Comment: Baghdad continues to seek to justify in advance an escalation of the war. As it increases its rhetoric, Iraq will feel more impelled to implement its threats, especially after the Super Etendards arrive from France
If Iraqi forces are destroying facilities at Panjwin, they probably expect it to fall soon. The Iranians are likely to use the town as a base to support dissidents in Iraq.

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